

# Nevada Agriculture Showcase



## Special points of interest:

- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Cooperative Weed Management Program

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## Nevada Department of Agriculture

### Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Announced

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service recently announced an award of \$200,010 to operate the 2003 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in selected counties in Nevada. In addition, the Nevada Division of Aging Services provided a grant of \$20,000 for program administration.

The delivery of this program is a cooperative effort through the Nevada Department of Administration, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Division for Aging Services, Nevada Rural Counties RSVP Program and the

Nevada Certified Farmers' Market Association.

The purpose of the program is to increase the consumption, production and distribution of fresh, locally grown fruits, herbs and vegetables, while supplementing the nutritional needs for 6700 of Nevada's low-income seniors who reside in Carson City, Gardnerville, Minden, Dayton, Virginia City, Reno, Sparks, Fernley, Lockwood, Winnemucca, Fallon and Hawthorne.

Eligible participants are seniors 60 years of age or older whose annual individual income does not

exceed \$16,391. These seniors are then given a book of ten \$3.00 coupons for use at the Farmers' Markets located in Carson City, Fallon, Gardnerville, Reno, Sparks, Winnemucca, and Hawthorne from July through September.

"All of the farmers who participate in the markets are thrilled to be a part of this program," said Shirley Sponsler, President of the Nevada Certified Farmers' Market Association.

For additional information, call Karen Grillo at (775) 887-2584.

## Cooperative Weed Management Program takes off in Nevada

Thanks to a \$100,000 U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry grant award, the Nevada Department of Agriculture has launched a program to assist local groups in the war on weeds.

A CWMA is an organized group of land owners and land managers who share resources and cooperative efforts across boundaries, to raise awareness and increase control of noxious weeds.

Participants include private landowners and conservation district members, counties, public land managers, tribes, public agencies, irrigation and water districts, and conservation groups, to name a few. In the last year, 20 new CWMAs have formed, making a total of 25 weed management groups in Nevada. These groups are working on a variety of projects including weed workshops and weed tours;

educational outreach programs; inventory and mapping; specific control projects, including monitoring and site restoration planning.

For more information, or to get involved with a group in your area, contact Lori Bellis, Weed Management Area Coordinator, Nevada Department of Agriculture at 775-688-1180 x 238.



The USDA Risk Management Agency recently enacted the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance policy for feeder cattle. LRP provides coverage to protect against price decreases during a chosen insurance period from 26 to 52 weeks. The prices refer to a price series reported by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The producer selects a coverage level of 70% to 95%

## NEW FEEDER CATTLE INSURANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE

of the expected ending value to determine the coverage price. If at the end of the insurance period the actual ending value is less than the coverage price an indemnity is paid. The actual ending value is the weighted average price of feeder cattle as calculated by the CME for Cash-Settled Commodity index prices.

Feeder cattle are defined as market steers with a weight between 650 to 900 pounds at the end of the selected insurance period. No more than 1,000

cattle can be insured under any one endorsement and no more than 2,000 cattle can be insured during the crop year (July 1 through June 30). Cattle that are predominantly dairy or Brahma breed are non-insurable.

Feeder cattle insurance is administered by private insurance agents. For a list of agents, see the RMA website: [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov).

For more information on Nevada feeder cattle or crop insurance policies please contact Teresa Courrier, Nevada Association of Counties at (775) 887-2584.

## Support Your Local Farmers Markets

### **Carson City**—Pony Express Pavilion

Highway 50 East at Mills Park

Wednesdays, June - October

3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Shirley Sponsler (775) 746-5024

### **Gardnerville** - Lampe Park

Fridays, June - August

Jana Fuller (775) 782-9828

### **Hawthorne** - Lady Bird Park

Fridays, June - September

Roberta Banfield (775) 945-3954

### **Fallon**—Williams & Main Street

Tuesdays, July - September

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rick Gray (775) 423-4556

### **Winnemucca**—Main Street

Fridays, July - September

Tom Lawler (775) 625-2907

### **Reno/Sparks**

**Park Lane Mall** - Plumb Lane & Virginia Street, Reno

Tuesdays, June - October

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Sparks Hometowne**

Victorian Avenue

Thursdays, June - September

4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Parks, Recreation & Special Events (775) 353-2291

### **Tamarack Junction Casino**

13101 S. Virginia, Reno

Fridays, June - October

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **Sparks United Methodist Church**

Oddie Blvd. & Pyramid Way

Tuesdays, June - September

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Everett Meyers (775) 358-0925



### **Reno Village Center**

California Ave. & Booth Street

Saturdays, June - October

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Shirley Sponsler (775) 746-5024

### **Las Vegas**

### **Bruce Trent Park Summerlin**

Rampart and Vegas Drive

Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

### **Gardens Park Farmer's Market**

Summerlin

10401 Garden Park Drive

Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

### **Boulder City Farmers Market**

Bicentennial Park

Colorado & Utah Streets

April-October

Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Joel Harris (702) 293-5933

## Grant Assists Production for Smith and Smith



Smith & Smith Farms formed in 1996, a partnership between Carole & Ron Smith and Brenda Smith & Kevin Piper. Located in Southeast Dayton, the ground was first broken in 1955 to grow seed potatoes. It was in alfalfa in the years prior to subdividing. The farm currently is on 10 acres, with about 4 acres in row crop production. In the past year a 20'X 96' unheated hoophouse was built. This structure produced saleable crops beginning in February. This has added continuity in marketing crops and providing income in the early spring when farm expenses are high.

One goal on the farm is a diversified cropping system. To that end a wide variety, over 100 different varieties of both vegetables and flowers are grown. These varieties include many heirloom and open pollinated varieties but many of the flowers are specialty cut varieties bred for the cut flower market. Also, chickens for eggs and meat are raised on the

farm. All the crops are direct marketed through a subscription program where a ½ bushel box filled with vegetables are delivered to 80 subscribers homes during a 17 week season. Flower bouquets are part of this program. Produce and cut flower bouquets, called 'Buckaroo Bouquets,' are also sold at the Carson City Farmer's Market.

All farm growing practices are organic. All compost is made on the farm. A pre-plant fish fertilizer is applied with the compost. Minerals are added at planting also. No pesticides, even organic-approved are applied on the farm. All crops are drip irrigated. The drip irrigation is a crucial component to a small farm of this nature. Flowers cannot be overhead irrigated, as the water will ruin the blooms. There is a need to be in most parts of the field daily once harvest begins.

In 2002, the farm received a specialty crop grant to expand the cut flower portion of the crops. Administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, these were USDA funds. As a result of a membership in the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers, Brenda & Carole believed that greater success with the flowers could be achieved by ordering cut flower transplants, instead of growing the plants themselves or direct seeding. They have

limited space to start plants and many of the specialty cut flower varieties have varying growing requirements. They also felt by expanding their perennial crops they would have an earlier start on the season.

This small change in growing practices has made a great difference in the flower production. This June they began marketing flowers a full week earlier than in any other season, primarily because of the perennial varieties transplanted last year. Over 100 bouquets were made in the first week of this season. In addition, several new flowers were ordered this season and are being successfully harvested currently. Sweet peas, Lisianthus and Sweet William were grown in the hoophouse.

As a result of the funds from this specialty crop grant, the flowers are a much bigger part of the farm income this season.

*- Submitted by Brenda Smith*



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*The mission of the Department is to benefit the welfare of all persons residing in the State by encouraging the advancement and protection of Nevada's agriculture and related industries.*

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**agri.state.nv.us**

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## Nevada Wine and Grape Growers Tour

Mark August 27, 2003 on your calendar for the chance to meet the wine and grape growers of Northern Nevada, and tour their blooming vineyards.

This exciting new opportunity is limited to 46 participants on a bus tour sponsored by the Nevada Wine and Grape Growers Association.

The bus will depart from Van Sickle Station Ranch, 1974 Foothill Road (just south of Genoa) at 10:00 am. The tour will

travel to the Frey vineyards in Fallon through Yerington and Smith Valley to the many Tahoe Ridge Winery vineyard sites in Douglas County.

The bus will return to Van Sickle Station Ranch for a tour and BBQ dinner.

The bus tour with lunch provided and the BBQ dinner is \$30.00. For those who just want to join us for the BBQ dinner featuring beef



Bringing Industry, Education,  
and Research Together

raised on the Van Sickle Station Ranch and the wines of Tahoe Ridge, the cost is \$15.00.

For more information, contact Karen Grillo at 775-887-2584. Seating is limited, and reservations are required by August 18.

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